



Employment Subgroup Meeting Minutes April 8, 2009

Items Relevant to Other Workgroups

- None at this time.

Attendees

- | | |
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| ■ Michele Walker | ■ Susan Hornfeld |
| ■ Alysia Babcock | ■ James Bunton |
| ■ Camille Price | ■ Jeff Kaplow |
| ■ Andy Bennett | ■ Dave McConnell |
| ■ Heather for Galyn Barnum | |

Discussion Items

- Review Action Plan Items
- Plan agenda for May 7 convening

Review Action Plan Actions and Outcomes

Action 1.1: Review employment resources and successful strategies for providing employment services.

- The team is currently engaged in research and information gathering on employment services; focusing on what information is going to be most useful for the task.
 - From June 3-5, MARO is holding its Spring Leadership Conference in Traverse City at the Park Place Hotel.
 - Since this presents a great opportunity for harvesting promising approaches, it was suggested that the director of MARO might host a luncheon with some of the providers, approximately 20, to talk about their programs.
 - ◆ There are questions about how such a meeting might be funded.
 - 20 providers at \$25 per lunch would require \$500.
 - Michele is going to look into possible funding and see what she can find out.
 - ◆ The team also needs to think about how to market this meeting.
 - It could be worthwhile to distribute information by getting some material into the conference handouts.
 - Susan will contact MARO regarding marketing materials.
 - ◆ It will be necessary to identify groups or individuals that could be invited to such a luncheon.
 - Might be able to get an attendance list from Dave Price, MARO.
 - ◆ It will also be necessary for the workgroup to generate some questions to ask MARO-attendees about their programs.
 - ◆ Michele is going to contact Susan to try to work the luncheon into the plan.
 - The team wants to continue to solicit input on best practices from the workgroup.

- ◆ It would also be a good idea to speak to some representatives from other workgroups at the May convening and get their input.
- The information gathered will be helpful in developing a list of best practices and promising approaches.
- The following are examples of promising approaches the team might include in such a list.
 - In Detroit there are new efforts through the Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND) focusing on employment as the key to keeping people housed.
 - 2-1-1 On The Go! mobile outreach program; smart cars travelling the streets of Detroit to see how they can help the homeless population.
 - ◆ One early lesson is that a lot of homeless people are not easily approached due to their substance abuse issues or mental health issues.
 - Goodwill Industries is focused on “shovel-ready” projects.
 - ◆ People receive training through Goodwill and are then placed in a position where they can earn a paycheck and use their newly learned skills.
 - In the meantime, Goodwill continues to try and find full-time employment for clients.
 - ◆ At Goodwill, they also are engaged in a DTE reclamation project and a Ben and Jerry’s shop.

Action 1.2: Expand and strengthen provider networks

- The team needs to meet to discuss next steps for this action.
 - It will most likely be necessary to have vehicles to promote cross-pollination and setting of goals for implementing best practices.
 - The team could be working with the Communications workgroup to get this community building underway.
 - ◆ This could be something that the workgroup take up at the convening.
 - The team will need to come up with questions for individuals and organizations, such as CoCs, to see what is known. This will inform the shape of the vehicle.
- One-Stops may need to be hosts or central to regional coalitions of providers to allow them to network.
 - There might be a way to get the One-Stop to play a role regionally.
 - The team could learn more by looking at a One-Stop resource in each of the regions.
- MARO might be able to have an ongoing group to talk about whether their current practices are working.
- At the HAND meeting later this month, there will be a speaker coming to talk to a core group in HAND about connections between groups working on employment for the homeless.
 - Camille will report back after the meeting.
 - The effort might serve as a model.
 - It might prove to be a first step in putting together a list of these networks or cataloging the kind of networking that is going on.

Action 1.3: Develop strategies for outreach on workforce development resources

- The team would like to put together a list of strategies which includes different strategies for different homeless populations.
 - Target audiences would be consumers and employers.
 - Populations might include: homeless and at-risk individuals, rural and urban populations, individuals and families, those willing to come in off the street and those who are not.

- The group has identified some promising strategies.
 - Jobs Education Training (JET) program
 - Project Homeless Connect
 - ◆ A number of counties run Project Homeless Connect quarterly.
 - ◆ Many people who come are not necessarily homeless, but are very close to becoming homeless, so they need some other services.
 - ◆ Getting employers to participate in Project Homeless Connect would be very helpful.
- Shelters which share information for employment.
- Cross-training of staff to reduce the separation between homeless services and employment services.
- Support and Training Result in Valuable Employees (STRIVE) is also very helpful.
- The team can address this on May 7 at the convening and discuss how this information can be most useful.

Action 4.2: Develop strategies for overcoming transportation barriers

- This team has not met. The team can address these issues at the convening.

May 7 Convening

- The convening replaces our regular monthly workgroup meeting.
- The convening will be a day-long, face-to-face meeting (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
 - It will be held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.
 - More information will be coming shortly.
- There will be some time in the morning (about 3 hours) for workgroup work. The group discussed what to do with this time.
 - Workgroup members are interested in having each task team write up a short summary of what has been happening on their task and do a brief presentation and discussion of each action.
 - ◆ Each task team should put together a short summary by April 29 and send it to Jeff. Jeff will distribute the summaries to everyone so that they can be reviewed and discussed during the convening.
 - Another option that was discussed was to have an all-group discussion about the transportation issues, since that cuts across both groups.
 - ◆ Jeff will contact Diane to have her formulate the list and contact Jim to assist.
- There will also be an opportunity for the workgroups to ask questions of the other workgroups at the convening.
 - These might focus on bigger issues of the Campaign, asking for input from a broader audience.
 - The group might also come up with a list of items that they could offer as suggestions to other workgroups or MSHDA.
 - Jeff will be sending the Action Plans of the other four workgroups to all the members, so they can be reviewed prior to the May 7 convening.

Communications

- With the redesign of the Campaign Web site, MSHDA and Pace are looking for people to help provide some content for best practices/promising approaches and maybe some case studies.

- Michele and Susan volunteered to help provide some input.
- Heather will check with Galyn and see if she might be able to help with this as well.

Campaign E-Newsletter

- The team might want to highlight the outreach to employment providers through the MARO conference.
- So far, the e-newsletter does not seem to be a very good mechanism for soliciting input on best practices.

Tasks Assigned

- Michele is going to look into funding for the MARO luncheon.
- Susan will contact MARO regarding marketing materials and an attendance list.
- Each task team should send a short written summary of activities to Jeff by April 29.
 - Jeff will compile and distribute the summaries before the convening.
- Jeff will distribute the action plans of the other workgroups to everyone.
 - Everyone should review the action plans prior to the May 7 convening.
- Everyone should send Jeff an e-mail regarding their attendance at the convening.

Future Meetings

- May 7, 2009 from 8:30–4:30 (Statewide Convening)
- June 10, 2009 from 2:00–3:30